

Deliveries of Merchant Ships to Communist China

During 1957 and 1958, Communist China acquired 33 additional merchant ships totalling 139,035 GRT from both Bloc and non-Bloc sources. With the exception of two small tankers totalling 6,639 GRT, all acquisitions were dry cargo ships. Twenty-one ships totalling 65,696 GRT were newly constructed in Finland, Hungary, Poland, and East Germany. The 12 second-hand ships (73,000 GRT) were purchased from the UK, Denmark, Norway, West Germany, and Greece. Acquisition in 1957 (19 ships - 58,957 GRT) were about five percent below those of 1956. Acquisitions in 1958 (14 ships - 80,078 GRT) were 35 percent greater than 1957 acquisitions. The Chicom merchant fleet at the end of 1956 totalled [redacted] purchases had increased this by 34 percent [redacted] by the end of 1957, and by 79.1 percent [redacted] by the end of 1958. Domestic construction in 1958 totalled 18,068 to give an end of the year figure of 110 vessels, totalling [redacted]

With respect to shipbuilding for the Communist Bloc, the 1958 COCOM list review resulted in drastic reductions in control. It is now permissible for COCOM/CHICOM countries to build for or sell to the Sino-Soviet Bloc tankers up to and including 18 knots speed, dry cargo ships up to 20 knots speed, fishing vessels up to 17 knots speed, and icebreakers up to 10,000 shaft horsepower. There is no longer a limitation to the size of ships to be sold to the Sino-Soviet Bloc.